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REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claim 1 and canceled the claim 7 without prejudice.

Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter (see particularly paragraphs 24, 27 and 29 of Applicant's application). In view of the above, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has rejected the claims 1 and 4 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Kuroiwa stating that Kuroiwa discloses a sealing device having a floating ring 110 in a gap between a stator 48 and a rotor 40 and the dimensions of the ring meet the thickness and width limitations.

In reply to this rejection, Applicant has carefully reviewed Kuroiwa and respectfully submits that the construction of Kuroiwa is quite different from Applicant's invention. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that Kuroiwa does not disclose a lip seal portion provided on the seal and on the rotor such that rotation of the rotary shaft causes the lip seal portion to become spaced apart from the seal-abutment face and a stoppage of the rotation allows the lip seal portion to become in resilient contact with the seal-abutment face and this way prevent leakage when the rotation is stopped.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Kuroiwa does not disclose each and every element of Applicant's invention as claimed by claims 1 and 4 and the claims 1 and 4 are not anticipated thereby.

The Examiner has further rejected the claims 1 and 5 through 7 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Gaffal stating that Gaffal teaches a sealing device having a floating ring 4 in a gap between the stator 2 and the rotor 1.

In reply to this rejection, Applicant has carefully reviewed Gaffal and respectfully submits that Gaffal does not disclose each and every element of Applicant's invention. In particular, Applicant respectfully submits that Gaffal does not teach or suggest that the rotor would be provided with a seal that has a lip seal portion wherein the lip seal portion is in resilient contact with a seal-abutment face when the rotary shaft of the rotor is stopped and spaced apart from the seal-abutment face when the rotating shaft is rotated. Clearly, Gaffal only shows that the parts would be spaced apart.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Gaffal does not disclose each and every element of the claims 1, 5 and 6 and the claims 1, 5 and 6 are not anticipated thereby.

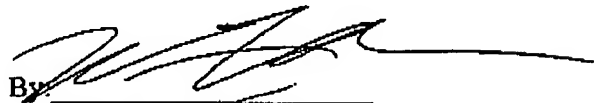
The Examiner has rejected the claims 2 and 3 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Kuroiwa stating that Kuroiwa teaches each and every element of Applicant's invention except for the material from which the seal ring is made; however, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the ring of resin.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to incorporate by reference the comments above concerning the Applicant's invention and Kuroiwa. As stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that Kuroiwa does not disclose or suggest all the elements of Applicant's invention and therefore the claims 2 and 3 are not obvious thereover.

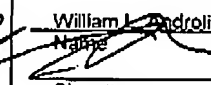
In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

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